

Indiana House of Representatives

News and Information

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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GARY LEADERS PLAN MARCH ON INDIANAPOLIS

INDIANAPOLIS—State Sen. Earline Rogers (D-Gary), State Reps. Charlie Brown and Vernon G. Smith (both D-Gary), Fourth District Councilwoman Carolyn Rogers, and Mayor Scott King are calling upon the citizens of Gary to caravan to Indianapolis on Monday, Sept. 12 for a march on the capitol. The group will demonstrate against the closing of the Bureau of Motor Vehicles (BMV) branch in Gary.

"It is critical that we fight to keep the Gary BMV branch open," said Dr. Smith. "Our community must not be meek and quiet as BMV Commissioner Joel Silverman bullies the fifth largest city in Indiana. To suggest that a mini-branch with only two workers and one computer can take care of all the needs of our Gary residents is an insult to our city and each of its citizens.

"In the tradition of The Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., we are going to travel to Indianapolis in large numbers and hold a peaceful protest to gain the attention of Governor Daniels so he understands that our people must be ensured the rights of any other citizen in the state of Indiana," added Dr. Smith. "We will fight for those rights and be heard. As Dr. King said, 'Our lives begin to end the day we become silent about things that matter.' "

The Gary leaders encourage all elected officials, both those in attendance at the earlier BMV hearing and those who could not attend, to join them in the "March on Indianapolis." The leaders also are asking local churches to provide vans for the caravan and to encourage their congregations to join the protest. Everyone who is concerned about the closure is asked to be part of the caravan.

Luxury buses will be provided for senior citizens and those who have no transportation available. Dr. Smith also urged citizens to drive their personal cars and to form carpools for the event. He said donations will be accepted gratefully to help defray the cost of the buses. Dr. Smith can be contacted at his office at 980-7120 or at his home at 887-2046. For more information about the "March on Indianapolis," contact LaLosa Burns at 881-1314 or Carolyn Rogers at 881-1315.

The Gary Citizen Caravan will assemble at 8 a.m. at the Gary Southshore Rail Cats' stadium, just off I-90 in downtown Gary. The Statehouse demonstration is scheduled for noon.

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This release can be accessed on the Internet at www.IN.gov/H14

